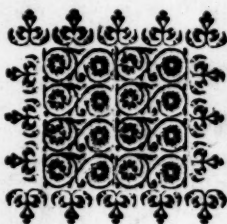


RETURNE



FROM THE PARLIAMENT OF ENGLAND,

To the Commissioners of the Generall
Assembly of the Church of
SCOTLAND.



EDINBURGH,

Printed by EVAN TYLER, Printer to the Kings
most excellent Majestie. *Anno Dom. 1642.*

RETURN

FROM THE

PARLIAMENT

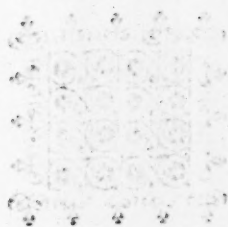
OF

ENGLAND,

In the Commission of the General

Assembly of the Church of

SCOTLAND.



plan

EDINBURGH

Printed by James Tytler, Printer to the King.
most excellent Majesty. Anno Domini 1692.



Returne from the Parliament of
ENGLAND,
*To the Commissioners of the Generall
 Assembly of the Church of
 SCOTLAND.*



See the Lords and
 Commons in Parlia-
 ment assembled, ha-
 ving with much con-
 tentment perused the
 Brotherly and Chri-
 stian Answer which
 the Generall Assem-
 bly of the Church of
Scotland have made
 unto the Declaration
 formerly sent unto
 them from us, and
 finding therein great expressions of love to this Church
 and Kingdome, and of prudence and faithfulness in
 propounding those things which may conduce to a more
 close and firme Union of the two Churches and Na-

tions of *England* and *Scotland*, in preserving and maintaining the Truth and Purity of the Reformed Religion, not onely against Poperie, but against all other superstitious Sects and Innovations whatsoever, Have thereupon resumed into our considerations and care, the matters concerning the Reformation of Church-government and Discipline, which we have often had in consultation and debate, since the beginning of this Parliament, and ever made it our chiefest aime, though wee have been frequently interrupted, and powerfully opposed in the prosecution and accomplishment of it.

And however wee continue still in the storme and conflict, finding small abatement of difficultie, and much increase of malignitie and perversnesse, in the opposition wherewith this great and necessary Worke of Reformation is encountred; yet wee heartily thanke God, and rejoyce with our Brethren of *Scotland*, for the Peace, Libertie, and Preservation which God hath afforded them, taking it as a Pledge and Earnest of the like mercy intended to us, in his good time; and hoping that he will not onely free us from the most grievous and destructive miseries and calamities of a Civill Warre, but graciously perfect our desires and endeavours of a full Reformation in all matters appertaining to Religion: Which, as it is the greatest honour and service which God receives from his People; so wee acknowledge, with our Brethren, that it is the surest Foundation of Glory, Strength, and Happinelle, which he bestowes upon any Nation.

The manifold obstructions and impediments which we have met with in seeking this great Blessing, doe give to us and all Gods People, great cause of grieve, and workes in us an earnest longing for the removall of them.

them. Yet knowing that all the wonderfull works of God in this kinde, have been brought to perfection through many oppositions, and seeming impossibilities, that so the Conclusion might be more glorious to his Divine Majestie, and comfortable to his Children, we cannot but in humilitie and submission expect the like issue of our wrastring and striving with that fierce and peremptory opposition which hath beene framed and acted against us by the most subtle and busie Engins of Sathan, the most pestilent Incendiaries among us, the Jesuits from abroad, a virulent and discontented partie at home, consisting of the Prelaticall Clergie, Atheisticall Projectors against Religion, profane and sensuall self-lovers, heightned and inflamed against us with a spirit of malignitie, beyond the example of former times, wherein we have had manifold occasions to discern both our own weaknesse and imperfections, and the divine mercy and goodnesse, and to hope that God having upheld us so long beyond our own strength and merit, will bring us through at last, to the full accomplishment of his owne praise, and of the joy of this and other Churches.

We acknowledge it an Act of Love to us, and of wisdom for the good of both Churches, for which wee are thankfull both to God and them, That our Brethren of *Scotland* have bestowed their serious thoughts and earnest desires for Unity of Religion, that in all His Majesties Dominions there might be one Confession of Faith, one Directorie of Worship, one publick Catechisme, and one forme of Church-government. And although it will hardly be obtained punctually and exactly, unlesse some way might be found of a mutuall Communication and

Conjunction of Councell , and debate in framing that one forme ; yet both intending the same end , proceeding by the same Rule of Gods Word, and guided by the same Spirit , we hope by Gods Assistance to be so directed , that we may cast out whatsoever is offensive to God , or justly displeasing to any neighbouring Church , and so far agree with our Brethren of *Scotland*, and other reformed Churches in all substantiall parts of Doctrine , Worship , and Discipline, that both wee and they may enjoy those Advantages and Conveniences which are mentioned by them in this their Answer , in the more strict Union of both Kingdomes , more safe , easie , and comfortable Government of His Majestie , and both to Himselfe and people a more free Communion in all holy Exercises and Duties of Worship , more constant security of Religion , against the bloody practices of Papists and deceitfull Errors of other Sectaries, and more profitable use of the Ministerie : For the compassing and attaining whereof we intend to use the labour and advice of an Assembly of godly and learned Divines ; for the conveneing of whom , a Bill hath already past both Houses, which had taken effect long since , if we could have obtained His Majesties Royall Assent thereto. All which considered, we acknowledge the faithfull and affectionate expressions of our Brethren in wishing and desiring this great Advantage for us , doe fully deserve those thanks which we have formerly expressed, and no whit stand in need of that Apologie which they are pleased to make.

The maine cause which hitherto hath deprived us of these and other great Advantages , which wee might have by a more close Union , with the Church of
Scotland,

Scotland, and other reformed Churches, is the Government by Bishops, which to strengthen it self, hath produced many other differences in Discipline and Ceremonies betwixt them and us, and is apt to worke in the Minds of those who are the Approvers and Defenders of it, such a dis-esteem of, and opposition to those Churches, as makes us desperate of that most beneficiall and desirable conjunction with them, untill this great impediment be removed: Whereupon we have entered into a serious consideration what good we have received from Government by Bishops, which may countervaille such a losse and inconvenience; and we are so far from apprehending any satisfaction herein, that we plainly perceive it a cause of many other Calamities, Dangers, and intolerable Burthens, being a dishonour to God by arrogating to themselves a Preheminencie and Power which he hath not given; by prophaning the puritie of his Ordinances with the mixture of their owne injunctions; by withstanding the frequent and powerfull preaching of the Gospel, that so their usurped Authority might receive more easie admittance into the ignorant and mis-guided Consciences of men; by corrupting the Ministry with Pride, Ambition, Covetousnesse, Idlenesse, and Luxurie; by suppressing the spirituall power and efficacy of Religion, and turning it into Formality and Pomp; by inclining to Poperie, the principles thereof being futable to this Government, and contrary to those principles which were the first Grounds of Reformation. We likewise finde it most pernicious to the Civill State and Common-wealth, In that the Bishops have ever been forward to infuse into our Kings such Tenents and Positions as are contrary to the fundamentall Lawes of the King-

Kingdome ; and to introduce Tyranny and an Arbitrary Power over the Lives ; Liberties , and Properties of the Subject , and that they have been forward to incite the King against His People , and by force of Armes to constrain them to submit to such an Arbitrary Government , and by unlawfull contribution of Money to assist His Majestie in making Warre upon His Subjects : whereof there are many Evidences both in those preparations , which not long since were made to invade *Scotland* , And in the Warre now raised against the Parliament and Kingdome of *England* : And yet they have shewed themselves so ambitious of Sovereignty , that they forbear not to maintaine in Sermons and printed Books , that the Kings Scepter ought to submit to *Aarons* Rod , and the Mitre to be above the Sword , which argueth in them an Antichristian Spirit , to exalt themselves above all that is called God : And a designe (when they have brought the Kingdome to be disposed at his pleasure) to subject His Majestie to their owne Arbitrary censures , that so themselves may triumph in the bondage and slavery both of King and people.

Upon all which and many other Reasons wee doe declare , that this Government by Arch-Bishops , Bishops , their Chancellors , and Commissaries , Deanes , Deanes and Chapters , Arch-Deacons and other Ecclesiasticall Officers , depending upon the Hierarchie , is evill , and justly offensive and burdensome to the Kingdome ; a great impediment to the Reformation and growth of Religion ; very prejudiciall to the Civill State and Government of this Kingdome ; And that we are resolved that the same shall be taken away. And according to our former Declaration of
the

the seventh of *February*, Our purpose is to consult with godly and learned Divines , that so wee may not onely remove this, but likewise settle such a Government as may be most agreeable to Gods holy Word , most apt to procure and conserve the Peace of the Church at home , and a happy Union with the Church of *Scotland* , and other reformed Churches abroad , and to establish the same by a Law which we intend to frame for that purpose, to be presented to His Majesty for His Royall Assent: And in the mean time humbly to beseech His Majestie, that a Bill for the Assembly may be passed in time convenient for the fifth of *November* next , the miserable estate of the Church and Kingdome not being able to endure any longer delay.

This being the resolution of both Houses of Parliament , we doe desire our Brethren of *Scotland* to concur with us in petitioning His Majesty that His Royall Authority may be applied to the better Conservation of a firme Unity between the two Kingdomes. And that they likewise will think good to send to the same Assembly some godly and learned Divines of that Church , whereby an Uniformity in forme of Church-government may be obtained , And thereby a more easie passage made to the settling of one Confession of Faith , one Lyturgie, or Directory of Publick Worship, and one Catechisme in all the three Kingdomes ; which we hope through Gods blessing will have such an effect in all His Majesties Dominions, as will much advance the Honour and Service of God, enlarge the Greatnesse , Power and Glory of the King, confirme the peace , security and prosperity of all his good Subjects , make way to the relief and deliverance of the poore afflicted Churches abroad,

and to the totall abolishing of the Usurpation and
 Tyranny of *Rome*, being the prime Cause and
 Fountaine of all the Miseries and Calamities, the
 bloody Massacres, out-ragious Cruelties,
 and bitter Persecutions of Gods
 People in all the Christian
 World for many
 Ages.

John Browne

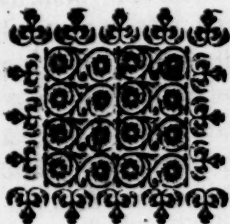
Cler. Parliament.

RETURNED



RETURNE FROM THE PARLIAMENT OF ENGLAND,

To the Lords of Privie Councill
of the Kingdome of
SCOTLAND.

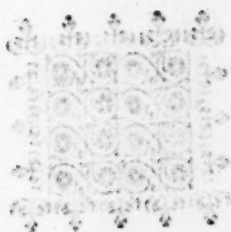


EDINBURGH,

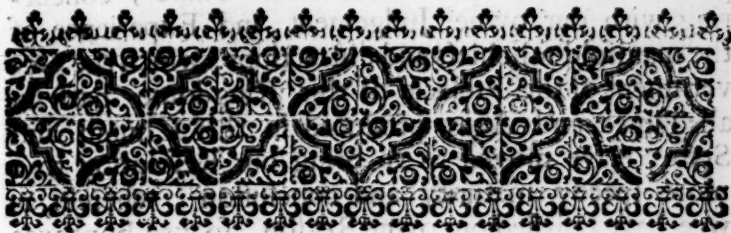
Printed by EVAN TYLER, Printer to the Kings
most excellent Majestie. *Anno Dom. 1642.*

30
RETURNE
FROM THE
PARLIAMENT
OF
ENGLAND.

To the Lords of Privie Council
of the Kingdom of
SCOTLAND.



LONDON:
Printed by E. & J. TAYLOR, Printers to the Kings
most excellent Majesties. Anno Dom. 1641.



Returne from the Parliament of
ENGLAND,

To the Lords of Privie Councill
of the Kingdome of
SCOTLAND.

THe Lords and Commons in Parliament, have with approbation and thanks received from the Commissioners of the Kingdome of Scotland, a cleare manifestation of the respect which the Lords of His Majesties Secret Councill for that Realme, doe beare to the Welfare and Peace of this Kingdome, in the expression of their Affections, wherewith they were pleased to second the desires of the Generall Assembly of that Church, for Unitie in Religion, and Uniformitie in Church-government in His Majesties three Kingdomes. And having often had that matter in debate, and our most serious consideration, the Christian Advice of that reverend Assembly, and the

grave Counsell of that Honourable Table , concurring with our owne Judgement , and Experience of the manifold mischiefs and distractions, which the Government of the Prelacie of this Kingdome hath in all Times and Ages produced in this Church and State , Have moved us to bring our Resolution to a more speedy maturity and conclusion : wherein, as wee have satisfied our owne Reason , so wee hope wee shall satisfie the loving and Christian desires of our Brethren of *Scotland* , Although wee know , that hereby wee shall exceedingly irritate that opposite and malignant Party , who will bend all their Invention and Force to interrupt this Worke , and to ruine and destroy us in the under-taking of it. And wee desire their Lordships to consider , That the Party which hath now incensed and armed His Majesty against us , and his other faithfull Subjects in this Kingdome , is the same , which not long since upon the very same designe of rooting out the Reformed Religion , did endeavour to begin that Tragedie in *Scotland* : which, whensoever it shall be perfected in either Nation , will easily be accomplished in the other ; Religion being the Band and Foundation of the Safety and Happinesse of both.

And as wee resolve according to the Nationall Covenant betwixt the two Kingdomes , to be carefull of the Peace of *Scotland* , as of our owne ; So wee doubt not but their Lordships , and the Nation of *Scotland* will be carefull to expresse their brotherly kindnesse to us , and prudent care of themselves , by restraining the evill affected amongst them , that they may not foment our Troubles ; and by all other wayes , according to the Articles ratified in the

Parlia-

Parliaments of both Kingdomes , to maintaine the
 Peace and Amity betwixt the two Nations , and to
 reſtraine the miſchievous Attempts and Practices of
 thoſe who are Enemies to both. That ſo through
 Gods bleſſing wee may mutually rejoyce in one ano-
 thers Happineſſe, and yeeld His Majeſty ſuch a faith-
 full ſubjection , as may be honourable to Himſelf,
 comfortable to His People , advantageous to
 the Profeſſors of the Reformed Reli-
 gion in other parts beyond
 the Seas.

John Browne
Cler. Parliament.

FINIS.

